



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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March 7, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Richard Sanchez  
Chief Information Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Gloria Molina", is written over the list of recipients.

### SECURITY BREACH INVOLVING CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE RECORDS AT RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

On February 25, 2011, the Department of Health Services (DHS) Administration was notified of theft of an unencrypted laptop at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho) containing 667 electronic patient health information (PHI) records. The laptop located in Rancho's diagnostic laboratory was attached to a medical diagnostic device that performs electromyography for patient testing and then stores the results.

There is no evidence that an unauthorized individual has actually retrieved and is using the PHI data. In accordance with California law, DHS notified the California Department of Public Health on March 3, 2011. In addition, DHS has established a privacy breach hotline where patients can call for information on this incident. Further notification of this security breach may also be required to Federal department of Health and Human Services.

DHS is working with County Counsel, the County's HIPAA (Health Information Portability and Accountability Act) Privacy Officer, and the County's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to ensure that all appropriate notifications and corrective actions are undertaken. The County's CISO is working with DHS to take remedial security measures to ensure that this situation is not repeated.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Robert Pittman, County's CISO, at 213-253-5631 or [rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov](mailto:rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov).

RS:RP:pa

c: William T Fujioka  
Board IT Deputies  
Chief Deputy Executive Officers  
County Counsel  
Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., Director, Health Services  
Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller